TL 2110

EAST TIMOR
CNRM
TIMOR LORO SAE

INDONESIA'S LATEST EAST TIMOR MANOEUVRES

SALZBURG INTRA-TIMORESE MEETING POSTPONED

MEDIA STATEMENT

31 March 1995

The UN Secretary General's office has just informed East Timorese invited to an intra-Timorese dialogue, to be held in Salzburg on April 24, that the event has been postponed to a date in June to be fixed. Indonesian pressures on the UN in recent days had put the meeting under increasing danger. Jakarta once again bears the responsibility of impeding progress towards a genuine resolution of the East Timor conflict.

The National Council of Maubere Resistance (CNRM), the umbrella organisation of all forces struggling for the right of self determination of the East Timorese people, strongly deplores the postponement of the intra-Timorese talks, and accuses Jakarta of full responsibility for this set back. Indonesia has clearly proved afraid of a genuine dialoguebetween exiled East Timorese leaders and their fellows under its yoke.

During their fifth round of talks last January in Geneva, as one of the few positive outcomes achieved so far, the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal reached agreement for intraTimorese dialogue to be held under the auspices of the UN. The failure of Jakarta's farcical London 'reconciliation meetings', aimed at derailing the UN process of search for a solution of the East Timor issue, left Indonesia with little choice but to agree.

Indonesia's subsequent insistence that the UN only acts as a facilitator of the dialogue, once again betrays Jakarta's duplicity. Its intention to use the dialogue as a platform for its puppets and clients became evident once the UN invited some of the few truly independent voices left in East Timor. Participation of outspoken Bishop Ximenes Belo, pro-integrationist critic of the current situation in the territory Florentino Sarmento, of the young university Vice Rector Armindo Maia, and of other articulate commentators on the deplorable present situation, proved too risky for Jakarta. True to its style, Indonesia used clients, such as expelled Fretilin leader Abilio Araujo, chief collaborator in the London 'reconciliation meetings' to echo Indonesia's position overseas. It raised idle objections about the UN's mandate for the meeting. At home in Dili, a crowd of allegedly 5,000 people were coercively mobilised into taking part in an anti-UN demonstration.

In the face of these manoeuvres, CNRM reaffirms its basic position in defence of the right of self-determination and independence of the people of East Timor, fully supporing UN efforts to this end. Stressing CNRM's availability to participate in any meeting in conformity with the Geneva agreement, the CNRM Special Representative has said that CNRM would "at all times endeavour to contribute to a climate of understanding and frank and open dialogue on the most pressing problems facing the East Timorese people".

These problems primarily include: the need to end the human rights violations perpetrated by the Indonesian military occupation forces, the necessity for their immediate and complete withdrawal, and the need for appointing a neutral UN-trained peace keeping force. A permanent UN presence, through its Specialised Agencies and a representation of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, are very urgent priorities.

Jose Ramos Horta, Lisbon , tel + 351 1 605702.